

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CG

SUBJECT:SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

1. SMITHSONIAN INVITING ZAIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN 1976 BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE BY SENDING GROUP OF 25 FOLK ARTISTS (MUSICIANS, SINGERS, DANCERS, CRAFTSPERSONS) PLUS ONE GUIDING FOLKLORIST (PREFERABLY ENGLISH-SPEAKING) AND ONE TOUR ADMINISTRATOR (ENGLISH REQUIRED). GOZ ASKED TO FUND ASSEMBLING GROUP IN KINSHASA PRIOR DEPARTURE AND PREPARING THEM FOR DEPARTURE. SMITHSONIAN FUNDS AIRFARE, STATESIDE TRAVEL, BOARD AND LODGING, TEN DOLLARS POCKET MONEY DAILY EACH PARTICIPANT.

2. SMITHSONIAN STAFF FOLKLORIST DR. BERNICE REAGON ARRIVING KINSHASA 25 OCTOBER, 1735 HOURS, PANAM FLIGHT 188; DEPARTING 28 OCTOBER, 1715 HOURS, PANAM FLIGHT 183. HOTEL RESERVATIONS REQUESTED. SHE WILL CONFER WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS RE ZAIRE PARTICIPATION, EXTEND OFFICIAL INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE, WILL HAVE SLIDE SHOW OF 1975 "AFRICAN DIASPORA" PRESENTATION TO ACQUAINT UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICIALS WITH CONCEPTS BEHIND FESTIVAL.

3. SIX AFRICAN AND SIX CARIBBEAN NATIONS INVITED TO PERFORM TWO WEEKS EACH DURING TWELVE WEEK FESTIVAL. ZAIRE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 25 THROUGH AUGUST 8 (FOUR

DAYS ORIENTATION, SIGHTSEEING, TEN DAYS PERFORMING ON THE MALL) FOLLOWED BY TWO OR THREE WEEKS TOUR TO JOIN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN FOUR OR SIX CITIES. IN WASHINGTON, ZAIRE TENTATIVELY PAIRED WITH SURINAM TO PERFORM WITH AMERICAN FOLK ARTISTS CARRYING ON SIMILAR CULTURAL TRADITIONS TO ILLUSTRATE CONTINUITY OF BLACK CULTURE OVER THREE CONTINENTS. SMITHSONIAN INVITATION STRESSES DESIRE FOR AUTHENTIC EXPONENTS OF PARTICULAR FOLK CULTURES TO WHOM TRADITION IS LIVING SURVIVAL, NOT TRAINED BALLET OR CONCERT ARTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN TAUGHT REVIVED ART FORMS.

4. SMITHSONIAN CONSULTING FOLKLORIST WILL CONDUCT ONE WEEK OR MORE FIELD RESEARCH IN ZAIRE LATE NOVEMBER, WORKING WITH FOLKLORIST OR CULTURAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATED BY GOZ.

5. COURTESY CALL ON ZAIRE EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY NGAMBANI SEPTEMBER 24 WENT SMOOTHLY AND COPY OF INVITATION BEING SENT TO AMBASSADOR FOR THEIR TRANSMITTAL TO COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. NGAMBANI SUGGESTED REAGON FIRST CALL ON COMMISSIONER FOR CULTURE AND ARTS. REAGON ALSO HOPES TO MEET WITH FOLKLORIST NAMED BY GOZ, TO MAKE PLANS FOR CONSULTING FOLKLORIST COMING LATER.

6. FYI, NGAMBANI SUGGESTED CONSULTING FOLKLORIST MIGHT ATTEND NOVEMBER 24 INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, SINCE THAT PROVIDES UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE WIDE VARIETY OF FOLK DANCERS AND MUSICIANS AT ONE VIEWING.

7. SMITHSONIAN MAILING USIS KINSHASA COPY OF INVITATION, FESTIVAL BACKGROUND MATERIALS, REAGON BIO DATA. USIS ACCOMPANYING REAGON ON OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. SMITHSONIAN WILL ALSO BE GRATEFUL FOR USIS GUIDANCE AND COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING PROJECT. KISSINGER
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